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P&SN **Police and Security News**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018
VOLUME 34 ISSUE 1**

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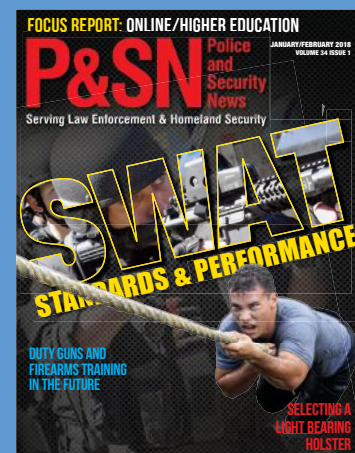
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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Beware of falling iguanas.

No...really. Though we don't have any signs which actually say this in South Florida, it is a possibility. It even happened to my neighbor. Let me back up a bit.

From Palm Beach County south to my neck of the woods, and all the way down to the tip of Key West, we are pretty much overrun with lizards of all kinds. In the last 15 years or so, though, the iguana population has exploded down here. Part of it is people who keep them as pets and then let them go in the wild, and the other factor is shipments of you name it from Central and South America, where the scaly green dudes become stowaways on ships and in crates. When you drive past a canal in Miami or anywhere nearby (we have canals everywhere), you can glance over at the canal bank or the strip of grass next to the road and, chances are, you'll see an iguana or two soaking up the sun. You see, they are solar-powered and this is where the falling comes in, but I'll get to that in a bit.

We also have *anoles* which range in size from the little ones which don't get much longer than a ballpoint pen (we've got billions of these), or the Cuban green anole which can get a couple of feet long. The subtropical climate here is perfectly A-OK for these critters, and the abundance of canals (iguanas are really good swimmers) provides lots of vegetation and many little fish to munch on, though they are primarily herbivores. The problem comes when we fall victim to our "cold" spells. Now, it's entertaining for all you Northerners who get a good chuckle at the fact that below 50° down here is pretty rare – we might have eight or nine days all year that chill down to that point – and, yes, once or twice a year, the mercury can dip down into the high 30s and we become all excited, put on thick jackets and make hot chocolate. The lizards, however, aren't down with all this chilliness.

The iguana epidemic was first noticed about seven years ago, when a freakish cold snap plunged the daytime temperatures into the high 40s and nighttime was in the mid-30s. While you Midwesterners walk out in that weather and say, "Let's

wash the cars!" cold-blooded reptiles instead go into this power down, stand-by-like state of hibernation. They can't move and they lose their grip. It's kind of like when you've come home from the holiday party after 11 vodka tonics, and you end up falling off the sofa, glasses on, TV still playing, remote in hand (not that I've ever done such a thing). So, that winter at Tropical Park – which is like iguana Grand Central Station – people found iguanas lying in the grass under the trees and thought they were dead. But, they weren't – instead, they were in a semi-comatose state where they couldn't move and their hearts were still beating slowly, and they were probably saying to themselves, "Why the hell did I ever leave Venezuela?"

A few years ago, during another February cold wave, my neighbor was getting out of his car and a large anole landed on his shoulder. He was alarmed, to say the least, but he handled it well. He only jumped a couple of feet into the air, sending the snoozing anole tumbling to the ground. The anole was unharmed and reportedly came to a couple of days later. Had that happened to my wife, the anole would have gone permanently deaf from her screams and no amount of medication on this Earth would have cured her.

By now, you are saying, "Nyberg, what on God's green Earth does this have to do with law enforcement?"

It doesn't, at least not *yet*. The iguana invasion has become a problem and many communities have appealed to their local governments for help. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is having a workshop in the Keys this month to educate the public about what can and can't be done, but, make no mistake, legislation or some sort of control is on the way. We already have a hunting season and special license for Burmese Python (which have become the alpha predator in the Everglades), and it's safe to say that

some kind of control for the proliferation of iguanas is in the works as well. Iguanas don't upset the food chain the way the pythons have, but they do love flowering plants and, unless you have some sort of protection for your garden, they will munch all of it up in short order, and crap on your patio on the way out.

You can't poison them, because that's Animal Cruelty (F.S. 828.12), but they are relatively easy to chase away, or you can call "Iguana Catchers," one of several exotic animal removal companies which do a very healthy business here in the subtropics.

If you catch them, experts say that euthanasia is allowed – as long as it is humane. This includes carbon monoxide asphyxiation; the administering of either Halothane, Isoflurane or Sevoflurane by a licensed veterinarian; or, my favorite, "stunning, followed by decapitation." How does one "stun" an iguana? It sounds like a joke with a great punch line waiting. Tell him he won the lottery? No, no...you use a captive bolt gun (a device for stunning animals) or some other device (not a TASER®; don't get excited). You have to use this means of anesthesia because, if you decapitate a reptile, their brain might be active for as long as an hour afterward, and then we're falling under 828.12 again. Let's not even go there.

There are lots of things to get ironed out and I hope most of this is addressed at the FWC iguana workshop. In the meantime, if you're visiting South Florida during one of our lovely cold snaps, well...heads-up. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He now owns his own private investigation agency, Nyberg Security and Investigations, and can be reached at Ramesh@NybergPi.com. He enjoys getting feedback from readers.



Ramesh Nyberg



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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

Firearms, Ammunition and Accessories



New Hollow Point Ammunition

Aguila Ammunition has announced the return of **hollow point ammunition** to their centerfire product line. They will be adding 9mm, .380, .357, .40 and .45 caliber rounds. The new line means additional production capacity and a new manufacturing facility in Texas.

Circle 1004 for More Information



New Sniper Load

Black Hills Ammunition now offers a plastic tipped **.308 version** of their legendary Sierra 168 MatchKing. The modernized sniper load combines MatchKing accuracy with improved terminal effect and limited penetration to minimize danger to perimeter teams. A temperature insensitive propellant allows it to perform in extreme heat or in -20 degree weather.

Circle 1005 for More Information

Save Ammo with Laser Boresight



To save time and ammo, Sightmark has announced a **6.5 Creedmoor laser boresight** which can also be used for .22-250 chambered rifles. Insert it into your rifle like a standard cartridge and a red laser shines through the tip of the boresight and out the barrel, allowing you to easily align your reticle to the **boresight** and get on paper for fine adjustments; it is powered by 2X AG5 batteries.

Circle 1008 for More Information

New Holster

DeSantis Gunhide® recently introduced the **Facilitator™** for the GLOCK® 43. The **Facilitator**, Style #042, is constructed of rigid 125 Kydex® sheet and glass reinforced nylon for strength and durability and features the Redi-Lok™ trigger locking device. It can be worn strong side (butt rearward), cross draw (butt forward), or small of back (almost horizontal). The **Facilitator™** is slim which makes it much more concealable than the competition. The combat proven Redi-Lok makes this model very secure and snatch-resistant. The Redi-Lok is a trigger locking device which is totally instinctual so almost no new training is necessary. It is located on the inboard side so it's out of the sight of an adversary. The belt slots are 1 3/4" wide and it is available in black.



Circle 1006 for More Information

GLOCK®'s Compact Slide and Full-size Frame Join Forces



GLOCK, Inc. recently introduced their first-ever "Crossover" pistol, the **GLOCK 19X**, which combines the best features of two of its most popular and most trusted field-tested platforms. The full-size GLOCK 17 frame and the compact GLOCK 19 slide have joined forces for the ideal pistol for all conditions and all situations.

Confidence now comes in a different color with the first-ever factory colored slide. The **GLOCK 19X's** improved nPVD slide coating prevents corrosion, resists chemicals and stands up against the elements. The pistol comes in coyote color and includes a standard 17 round magazine and two 17+2 round magazines, along with a coyote colored pistol case.

Among the additional design features of the **G19X** are the GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB) which delivers increased accuracy with enhanced polygonal rifling and an improved barrel crown, no finger grooves, ambidextrous slide stop levers for better versatility, and a lanyard loop.

Circle 1007 for More Information



SIG SAUER® 9mm FMJ Ammunition

SIG SAUER recently announced the **expansion of its 9mm Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) Elite Performance Ammunition** offerings with the addition of 124-gr. and 147-gr. bullet weights. SIG now has three 9mm bullet weights – 115-gr., 124-gr. and 147-gr. – available in both the V-Crown® Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) personal defense ammunition and the **SIG FMJ** target loads.

The **SIG FMJ** ball ammunition is designed to approximate the performance of the corresponding JHP loads, making a seamless transition from target ammo to carry ammo. The copper-coated lead bullets in the **SIG FMJ** ammunition were engineered to have the most precise, uniform profile, resulting in consistent accuracy.

Manufactured to meet or exceed SAAMI specifications, the **SIG FMJ** centerfire pistol cartridges feature solid brass cases and durable copper jacketed bullets which stay with the lead at impact. Dependable primers and clean burning powders are used for reduced barrel fouling and more reliable functioning.

Circle 1009 for More Information

New M&P® M2.0™ Compact Series



Smith & Wesson Corp. recently announced the availability of its new **M&P M2.0 Compact** pistol. Available in 9mm and .40 S&W, the **M&P M2.0 Compact** pistol series delivers a compact carry advantage with the advanced M2.0 feature set, including an aggressively textured grip; four interchangeable palm swell inserts; and a light, crisp M2.0 trigger with a tactile and audible reset. The pistol features a solid, molded polymer frame, as well as the optimal M&P pistol 18 degree grip angle

for a natural point of aim. Chambered in 9mm and .40 S&W with a four inch barrel, the **M&P M2.0 Compact** pistol comes standard with a white dot front sight and a white two dot rear sight, and either a 15 round 9mm or 13 round .40 S&W magazine.

Circle 1010 for More Information



New Holster for SIG SAUER's P229

DeSantis Gunhide® recently introduced the **Raptor™** for the SIG SAUER® P229. This is a high ride OWB/IWB Kydex® thermoformed holster. It is preformed with a curved back with most of the detailed molding on the outer portion. This adds to both comfort and concealability. The **Raptor** comes with belt loops for 1½", 1¾" or IWB soft polymer straps. It also features a trigger guard detent and rear sweat guard.

Circle 1012 for More Information

New Mini Shot M-Spec Kit

From Sightmark, the **Wolfhound 6x44 Mini Shot M-Spec Kit** includes the Wolfhound reticle which is ballistically matched to .223, 55- and 62-grain ammunition and features a 7.5 MOA outer ring for close-range shooting, while its .5 MOA central dot and holdovers at 300 to 900 yards allow long-range precise shots.

Also included is the Mini Shot M-Spec, built with a protective steel shield and a waterproof aluminum body. Its 3 MOA red dot reticle has up to a 30,000 hour battery life. It can be mounted on the Wolfhound 6x44's top picatinny rail.



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DELEGATE (But Do It Right!)

Do you have too much work to do and too little time to do it? You are not alone!

Michael Carpenter

Administrators of all ranks, from sergeant through chief, all have this same complaint. However, the smart ones have found a solution to ease their time crunch. It's called delegation.

Some of what creates your time crunch is work which could be done by someone with a lesser rank. Even when a project requires your expertise or judgment, there may be background or preliminary work which could be done by someone else. The proper delegation of some of your tasks can get the work done faster, help to develop your subordinates and can get you out of your acute time crunch, but, if you're going to delegate, do it right!

The delegation of work should be a win-win-win situation. Your subordinates should win because you are delegating important tasks to others to help them learn and grow. Your department should win because delegation helps future leaders to develop within the organization. And you should win because delegation of some of your work to others frees you up to concentrate on other areas of your command.

Excuses

So, if delegation is such a great management tool, why don't more police managers use it? To help answer that question, here are a few "excuses" why managers don't delegate or do so enough. Perhaps you've heard them and, maybe, you've said them.

1. **"I can do the job better."** Perhaps you can and that's why you were promoted. However, maybe now is the time to show your bosses that the trust they placed in you for your promotion was justified by taking an important step in performing as an effective supervisor. A critical part of a supervisor's job is to develop future supervisors. Unfortunately, many bosses have either forgotten this or don't consider it to be their responsibility. Delegation is a way to ease your people into increasingly more intricate duties. Delegation is a part of the job that every supervisor and command level officer should be doing.
2. **"They might make mistakes."** Yes,

they might make a mistake or two, but so do you from time to time. An effective police supervisor must be willing to underwrite the mistakes of a subordinate. You can prevent some of these by choosing the right person for the right job, giving them adequate authority and freedom to do the job and by properly monitoring their progress. Even with all of that, they still might make a mistake. You can handle it.

3. **"I need to be in control."** If you are competent in the art of delegation and do it properly, you are in control. You don't give away your authority or power when you delegate. You are still the person in charge. Proper delegation, with proper monitoring and follow-up, actually increases your power and authority because you will get more done in less time.
4. **"Delegating takes up too much of my time."** If delegating takes up too much of your time, you are doing it wrong. Monitoring a task, by definition, should take less time and effort

than actually “doing” the task. One of the things you can delegate is routine tasks, like monthly reports. True, it may take you a little investment in time to teach someone how to do those reports, but you only do it once. Then, those reports get done, month after month, and all you have to do is monitor the progress and review the final report. The overall process will save you a great deal of time (not cost you time) in the long run.

5. **“I feel guilty about having someone else do my work.”** The only time you should feel guilty about delegating work to your people is if you are “dumping” your work upon them. Delegation is about providing your people with worthwhile tasks to help develop their potential within the department and to free you.

Steps to Take to Do It Right

1. **Select the right subordinate.** Make certain the employee you select has the knowledge, the experience and the temperament to do the

job. Also, be sure that the employee has the time and the ambition to get the work done on time.

2. **Communicate well.** Define the task well. Give exact details of what you want, how it should be done and the results you expect. Set out the time constraints for the project. Then, be sure to give them the authority they need to get the job done.
3. **Control and follow-up.** Set up formal reporting times so that you can both discuss the status of the project and answer any questions. Check the work more closely in the beginning to be sure it is heading in the right direction. Overall, allow your subordinate enough freedom to complete the task as that person sees fit. However, also remember that good follow-up is absolutely necessary for successful delegation.

A Supervisor or Manager Can Delegate Tasks for Any Number

of Good, Valid Reasons

A supervisor can use delegation to help develop a subordinate before they get promoted. If an officer is on the sergeant's list and it looks like he'll get promoted within the next year, now might be the time to infuse delegation into a “field training program” to let the officer experience some aspects of his new job before he gets promoted. Let the officer begin to get the feel of being a sergeant by learning how to do some of the administrative tasks of a sergeant under the supervision and guidance of a sergeant. And, if it was explained to the police officer that his newly assigned tasks will help him when he gets promoted, I am sure the added assignments would be accepted as a career building opportunity.

However, delegation does not have to be limited to just those officers who are waiting for promotion. It may be hard to believe, but delegation can be viewed as a reward or can be used to motivate other officers. Case in point: When I was a sergeant, one of my duties was to monitor the maintenance of



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our patrol vehicles. This was not one of my most favorite assignments. However, one of the officers on my shift was a "car guy." He loved tinkering with cars; he knew all about how they run; and he was always greatly concerned about noises or soft brakes in any of the police vehicles. At one point, I must have been muttering about scheduling a patrol car for maintenance or some such and he said to me, "Sarge, if you don't want to do that stuff, I'll be glad to." He had a certain interest; he wanted to use his knowledge of cars; and he was genuinely happy when I (very quickly) gave him the chance.

Delegation should not be viewed as a punishment. (Just because one of your officers is doing a good job, it should not appear that you are dumping more work on him.) It can be used as a motivational tool.

To Delegate or Not to Delegate... That Is the Question

Of course, there are limitations to delegating. There are certain tasks you perform which you must perform, whether

based on your agency's policies or perhaps a mandate from your boss. However, there are also certain tasks you perform which could be, and for reasons already listed, should be delegated.

In general, the following areas can be delegated:

- Recurring problems which have routine solutions (scheduling problems, procedural problems);
- Routine tasks (monthly reports, inventories, maintenance);
- Time-consuming tasks (studies, statistical reports); and
- Jobs you aren't good at, but one of your officers would be (projects in specialty areas).

There are certain tasks you may be responsible for which should not be delegated:

- Disciplinary matters;
- Investigating allegations of department policies or complaints against one of your officers;
- Policy-making issues; and

- Management functions specific to your rank based on agency policies or orders from your boss (required approvals, monetary decisions, etc.).

Delegating work does not mean dumping your responsibilities onto your subordinates so that you can go play golf. Nor does it mean casting off only the work you don't want to do.

Overall, delegation should be a positive activity. And you, as a professional police manager, need to master the art of delegation so that it's a win-win-win proposition for your people, your department and your career. **P&SN**

Note: Police Management Services, LLC is pleased to announce to the readers of P&SN that it is offering a new online supervisory training program. This online training is the equivalent of a four day training program at an academy. For more information, please check their Web page at <http://policemanagement.com/expert.html> or you can reach them by E-mail at MCarpenter@policemanagement.com or by phone at (518)761-9708. Also, see their ad in this edition of P&SN.

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TECHNOLOGY FROM THE PAST

Mounted Police Mechanize

The bicycle made its debut in the New York City Police Department in 1893 when it was decided to try them out for mounted police duty. Four policemen were mounted on bicycles and assigned to duty in the upper part of the city. Soon, because the numerous arrests of reckless drivers and cyclists were so successful, the service was extended. In the case of a driver, the tactics followed were for the officer to ride ahead of the offending vehicle



A police bicyclist – circa 1897 – from the Great North Side (borough of the Bronx), New York

and allow himself room to dismount and make the arrest when the offender stopped. In one case, when a cyclist would not stop, the officer ran into him, bringing wheels and riders into a heap, but, as the police commission expressed it, with “our man on top.”

For patrol work, the cyclist police-

man could cover his round four or five times, while a foot patrolman covered it only once. In the case of an equestrian policeman, the difference was as great because he was not allowed to exceed a pedestrian in speed. Bicycle patrols were a colorful innovation in a colorful city long ago. **P&SN**



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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



FLIR®

FLIR's new **Breach** thermal mini monocular is the lightest and most compact full-featured FLIR thermal monocular available. With a thermal resolution of 640x480 and a fixed 19mm lens, the FLIR **BREACH** offers handheld operation in addition to mounting options for helmet and goggle systems.

The FLIR **Breach** offers a vivid 1280x960 viewing resolution on its FL-COD HD display. Additional features include internal recording and storage of up to four hours of video and 1,000 still images; Bluetooth® 4.0 connectivity; built-in digital compass; and a versatile USB-C port for external power, digital video out and connection to peripheral devices.

Circle 1018 for More Information

NIGHT VISION DEVICES



The new **UL (Ultralight) PVS-14** utilizes new MIL SPEC lightweight optics and a revised battery housing which uses digital push-button switches instead of the heavy analog switches. This combination of lighter weight components results in an unheard of system weight of only 260 grams as compared to the standard AN/PVS-14 weight of 355 grams.

Circle 1019 for More Information

Night Vision & Thermal Imaging Equipment



FISHER RESEARCH LABS, INC.

The **IGEN LE** digital night vision viewer with integrated photographic capability is now available. It offers stunning resolution and superior image output which is ideal for surveillance and evidence collection. The all glass 2.6X lens provides a 70 foot field of view and ambient light amplification up to 650 times; built-in Infrared Intelligence® automatically adjusts wattage as needed for varying levels of darkness.

Circle 1020 for More Information



MEOPTA

The new **MeoNight 1.1** night vision device can be used as a night vision monocular for stand-alone viewing or with a riflescope to adapt it for nighttime use. The **MeoNight 1.1** features premium quality optics, 1X magnification, and is also available with an optional 3X magnifying module booster. It is capable of target detection out to 600 meters and features an external brightness control for easy adjustment of image intensity.

When used with a riflescope, the **MeoNight** is placed in front using Meopta's quick release NAR mount or it can be mounted directly onto the objective of the riflescope with Meopta's custom adapter for 42mm, 50mm or 56mm objective lenses. The **MeoNight** is waterproof, shock-resistant and fogproof.

Circle 1021 for More Information

NIGHT VISION DEVICES



Developed for special operations and law enforcement tactical end use, the **NVD BNVD-SG UL binocular** is the lightest and most technically compliant night vision system in the industry. It is a military-grade, image intensified, dual tube binocular which can be operated in helmet mounted, head mounted, or handheld configurations.

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LEGAL UPDATE



ACCESS DENIED

Restricting Sex Offenders' Access to Social Media Web Sites Violates First Amendment

Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

“To foreclose access to social media altogether is to prevent the user from engaging in the legitimate exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In *Packingham v. North Carolina*, 137 S.Ct. 1730 (2017), the United States Supreme Court addressed a North Carolina statute making it a felony for any registered sex offender to gain access to “a commercial social networking Web site where the sex offender knows that the site permits minor children to become members or to create or maintain personal Web pages.” The main question was whether the statute, which encompasses such commonplace social media Web sites as Facebook and Twitter, violates the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause.

At the time of this appeal, the statute applied “to about 20,000 people in North Carolina and the State has prosecuted over 1,000 people for violating it.”

The petitioner in this case is a registered sex offender. In 2010, a state court dismissed a traffic ticket against him which caused him to post on his Facebook page, “Man God is Good! How about I got so much favor they dismissed the ticket before court even started? No fine, no court cost, no nothing spent.... Thanks JESUS!” He was then prosecuted for violating North Carolina law.

On appeal, the North Carolina Supreme Court held that the law was “constitutional in all respects,” finding it to be “carefully tailored...to prohibit registered sex offenders from accessing only those Web sites that allow them the opportunity to gather information about minors.” *The United States Supreme Court disagreed and reversed, holding that the law violates the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause.*

“A fundamental principle of the First Amendment is that all persons have access to places where they can speak and listen, and then, after reflection, speak and listen once more. The Court has sought to protect the right to speak in this spatial context. A basic rule, for example, is that a street or a park is a quintessential forum for the exercise of First Amendment rights. [And even] in the modern era, these places are still essential venues for public gatherings to celebrate some views, to protest others, or simply to learn and inquire.”

“While in the past there may have been difficulty in identifying the most important places (in a spatial sense) for the exchange of views, today the answer is

clear. It is cyberspace – the ‘vast democratic forums of the Internet’ in general... and social media in particular. Seven in ten American adults use at least one Internet social networking service.” Indeed, “[o]ne of the most popular of these sites is Facebook, the site used by [the] petitioner leading to his conviction in this case. According to sources cited to the Court in this case, Facebook has 1.79 billion active users. This is about three times the population of North America.”

“Social media offers ‘relatively unlimited, low cost capacity for communication of all kinds.’” For example, on Facebook, “users can debate religion and politics with their friends and neighbors or share vacation photos. On LinkedIn, users can look for work, advertise for employees or review tips on entrepreneurship. And, on Twitter, users can petition their elected representatives and otherwise engage with them in a direct manner.”

“While we now may be coming to the realization that the Cyber Age is a revolution of historic proportions, we cannot appreciate yet its full dimensions and vast potential to alter how we think, express ourselves, and define who we want to be.

The forces and directions of the Internet are so new, so protean, and so far-reaching that courts must be conscious that what they say today might be obsolete tomorrow."

"This case is one of the first this Court has taken to address the relationship between the First Amendment and the modern Internet. As a result, the Court must exercise extreme caution before suggesting that the First Amendment provides scant protection for access to vast networks in that medium."

Clearly, the "sexual abuse of a child is a most serious crime and an act repugnant to the moral instincts of a decent people." And "it is clear that a legislature 'may pass valid laws to protect children' and other victims of sexual assault from abuse." This case "should not be interpreted as barring a State from enacting more specific laws than the one at issue.... [I]t can be assumed that the First Amendment permits a State to enact specific, narrowly tailored laws which prohibit a sex offender from engaging in conduct that often presages a sexual crime, like contacting a minor or using a Web site to gather information about a minor. Specific laws of that type must be the State's first resort to ward off the serious harm that sexual crimes inflict."

Nonetheless, the North Carolina statute at issue "cannot stand." Such a statute must be "narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest. . . . In other words, the law must not 'burden substantially more speech than is necessary to further the government's legitimate interests.'"

This law, which applies broadly to social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, "enacts a prohibition unprecedented in the scope of First Amendment speech it burdens. Social media allows users to gain access to information and communicate with one another about it on any subject that might come to mind. By prohibiting sex offenders from using those Web sites, North Carolina with one broad stroke bars access to what for many are the principal sources for knowing current events, checking ads for employment, speaking and listening in the modern public square, and otherwise exploring the vast realms of human thought and knowledge. These Web sites can provide perhaps the most powerful mechanisms available to a private citizen to make his or her voice heard."

"In sum, to foreclose access to social media altogether is to prevent the user from engaging in the legitimate exercise of First Amendment rights. It is unsettling to suggest that only a limited set of Web sites can be used even by persons who have completed their sentences. Even convicted criminals – and, in some instances, especially convicted criminals – might receive legitimate benefits from these means for access to the world of ideas, in particular if they seek to reform and to pursue lawful and rewarding lives."

Accordingly, the North Carolina law "must be held invalid" as a violation of the First Amendment. **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey; and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest U.S. provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement.

Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

The 2018 Dodge Durango SSV

Sergeant James Post



In addition to the pursuit-rated vehicles tested each year by the Michigan State Police (MSP), occasionally, manufacturers will submit prototypes for evaluation and testing.

Normally, these results are not published or included in the test results released to Law Enforcement (LE) agencies and the media. This is understandable because these vehicles can rightfully be called “works in progress” and the grueling MSP tests can frequently reveal areas which need more attention.

Such is the case with the Dodge Durango submitted for the MSP tests conducted in September 2017 and reported on in the last issue of *P&SN*. The speed, braking and ergonomic testing of the Dodge Durango were not done under the cover of darkness, but in full view of

the many in attendance. FCA engineers stated to those present that the vehicle (a modified SSV Durango) was recently prepared and subject to additional refinements and upgrades. It was, however, sufficient for testing, the FCA engineers stated, and the MSP staff reported it did pass the basic requirements for a pursuit rating which delighted the Mopar® fans in attendance.

These tests of a Durango have been widely reported in the media and speculation about a pursuit-rated Durango is more rampant than rumors about which entertainment mogul or media icon will be the next to fall from grace. FCA offi-

cial we interviewed would neither admit nor deny that a Durango Pursuit will be released in 2018. This is very understandable and an industry stock reply, as future vehicle releases are better kept secrets than a politician’s E-mails and logically so. Profit is the bottom line, of course, and the SUV police vehicle market is the newest and fastest growing segment of LE vehicle sales. Both Chevrolet and Ford already have a gigantic head start with their pursuit-rated Tahoes and PI Utilities, so a pursuit-rated Durango could make a serious impact in their sales (if competitively priced), particularly with those departments already using the popular Dodge Charger Pursuit sedans.

With the testing of a prototype Durango pursuit vehicle (and a sincere hope that one is on the horizon), this article will provide you with an in-depth review of a Durango you can buy today – the 2018 Dodge Durango SSV.

2018 Dodge Durango Special Service Vehicle, aka SSV

FCA’s Dodge Division has had an SSV Durango for several years and it – along with the Ram SSV pickup – has sold in increasing numbers to departments which need off-road capabilities more than they need pursuit capabilities. Most of these agencies are west of the Mississippi River, but rural sheriff’s depart-



Will there be a pursuit-rated Durango SSV available in the near future?

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

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The 2018 Durango Special Service comes with two engine options.

ments across America have been drawn to the Durangos because of their rugged performance and proven reliability.

The 2018 Durango Special Service is not a modified civilian SUV, but a specifically designed vehicle with input from FCA's LE Advisory Group and LE customers. There are two engine options, the 3.6L Pentastar® V-6 and the 5.7L HEMI®

V-8. Both engines have their own unique economy-minded, fuel saving assists. The V-6 features Engine Stop/Start (ESS) technology which shuts off the engine as the vehicle comes to a complete stop, then instantly restarts as the brake pedal is released. All of this takes less than a half-second. The V-6 is also E-85 Ethanol Flex Fuel capable.

The HEMI comes with its own Fuel Saver Technology, also known as a Multi-Displacement System (MDS). MDS is available in the 5.7L HEMI only and it is an ingenious creation which cuts the powerful V-8 back to four cylinders during normal operation. The change is almost unnoticeable, so an indicator is provided in the instrument cluster and the increased fuel economy is amazing. I personally have achieved 38 mpg with one of my HEMIs and routinely get 30 mpg, all at freeway speeds.

Regardless of the engine you choose, the power is transferred to the ground via an eight-speed automatic transmission, controlled by a rotary gear selector control on the console which frees up valuable space normally occupied by a traditional shift lever. Sixth gear in the transmission is the final drive gear, while seventh and eighth gears are overdrive gears. The Durango shares the eight-speed auto with the Ram SSV pickup and their retail counterparts.

Rear-Wheel Drive (RWD) is standard with both engines and All-Wheel Drive

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Circle 1028 for More Information



THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 20

(AWD) is optional with both engine choices. The V-6 AWD is single speed, full-time, whereas the V-8 AWD is two speed, full-time active AWD.

Standard equipment includes an 800 amp battery, a heavy-duty 220 amp alternator and heavy-duty engine cooling and braking packages. Other standard SSV features include heavy-duty front and rear floor mats, interior LED lamps, a power distribution center, front and rear wiring harnesses (including spotlight wiring), and in floor storage compartments.

Standard SSV safety equipment includes a full complement of driver's and passenger's front and side air bags and active head restraints, plus the ParkView® Rear Back-Up Camera which includes rear ParkSense®. The SSV brakes are upgraded with heavy-duty front brake calipers and feature a four-wheel disc Antilock Brake System.

Your officers' creature comforts are not overlooked either as standard SSV equipment includes a headliner console with storage and a red/white LED auxiliary dome light; an eight-way adjustable

power seat; a leather wrapped tilt/telescopic steering wheel; and a six speaker audio system operated by steering wheel controls. It also features an Automatic Tri-Zone Temperature Control and all of these functions are visible on a 4.7" Uconnect® display in the dash with Google Android Auto and Apple® CarPlay™ Integrated Voice Command. A full-length floor console features an armrest, a 12 volt accessory outlet and storage.

Noteworthy options include an engine block heater and skid plates (on AWD models) which protect the fuel tank, transfer case, front suspension, and underbody. An optional rear compartment storage cabinet with a slide out drawer and cooling fan is available. Load leveling rear suspension can also prove to be a valuable option, particularly with the optional Class IV trailer package.

Comparing the SUVs

The Durango, with an almost perfect 50/50 weight ratio and available HEMI and AWD, would be a formidable competitor in any comparison; however, two of the main

reasons officers prefer SUVs over sedans are cargo space and height (ground clearance). The Durango is slightly larger than the Ford, but smaller than the Chevy. The Durango's rear cargo space is 84.5 square feet, compared with the Tahoe's 112.1 square feet, while the PI Utility's is 85.1 square feet. At 8.1", the Durango's ground clearance is comparable to the Tahoe at 8.5" and better than the Utility at 6.5".

At the time this article was prepared, the three companies had not announced fleet pricing for the 2018 models; however, based on previous years, it is anticipated that the Durango SSV will be cheaper than the Tahoe and about the same as the PI Utility. And all three LE SUVs are proudly built in America.

This brings us full circle in our Durango story. We hope you've enjoyed it and, if you are interested in trying one on for size, contact them at www.fcausfleet.com. **P&SN**

Sergeant James Post appreciates your comments and suggestions for future articles. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.

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MANAGEMENT TIPS

The chief must determine an efficient and effective way to manage and assign projects. Consider using a large dry erase board in your office where you list all assignments to the supervisory and management staff with due dates next to them. Overdue projects are noted in red. The staff automatically checks the board when they come into the office. The projects which are completed have a check mark next to them. At the end of the year, the board is photographed for recordkeeping purposes.

Publish the number of complaints in relationship to the number of calls for service, plus officer initiated activities, plus walk-in citizens at the front desk, plus phone calls. It is not unusual for small law enforcement agencies to have but a few citizen-generated complaints a year in comparison to agencies with 50,000 citizen contacts.

All management levels need to be informed of the complaint process. After the chief receives, classifies and assigns the complaint, he/she should make a copy and send this to the subject officer's immediate supervisor and commander in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential." This takes place at the same time as the complaint is assigned to PSU and the subject officer receives a copy, thus showing true transparency (in a confidential manner) to all involved.

Source: Justice Technology Information Center

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SWAT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE



P&SN looks at the SWAT standards and performance of three separate law enforcement agencies in the US. How might these compare to your own department or agency?

Mickey Davis, Jim Weiss, Bob O'Brien, and Mark Prince

Although there may not be any current national or state SWAT officer standards in the United States, recommendations and guidelines are put forth by organizations such as the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA), the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy and California POST Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, for example. (To download a copy of the NTOA SWAT standards, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6vnnuac>.) The

NTOA is widely accepted as the definitive authority on all things SWAT, but more and more states now have professional associations and organizations for tactical officers which provide education, training, and policy and procedure guidance.

The two areas which are being reviewed in this article are primarily physical fitness standards (those related to the health of the officer in areas of cardiovascular fitness, strength and flexibility) and performance standards (those related to the actual physical aspects of the job of a SWAT officer, such as shooting, sprinting, climbing, dragging, swimming, etc.).

Cleveland Police Department (currently Cleveland Division of Police)

Cleveland, Ohio, has a city population of 386,000, with a metropolitan regional population of 3,516,000. It is protected by 1,500 sworn officers and has a full-time SWAT unit.

Background and History: In 1950, Cleveland was a larger city than today with a population of 915,000. In the 1960s and 1970s, it experienced serious racial strife along with a spike in violent crime, with homicides topping 200 to 300 a year.

In response, hundreds of new officers were hired, peaking at nearly 2,500. From 1964 to 1978, the Cleveland Police Department (CPD) implemented a succession of seven full-time tactical-type units, with nearly 200 tactical officers during the mid-1970s.

In 1979, a specialized full-time CPD SWAT Unit of 26 personnel was formed. Training was conducted by experienced LAPD SWAT members and the agency implemented a number of LAPD's procedures, tactics, standards, etc. This included designating one full day per week as required training for all SWAT officers and completing a physical fitness test based on the U.S. Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test.

Standards: Cleveland SWAT has a history of utilizing "mini scenarios" based on real-world SWAT or terrorist incidents. Mini scenarios are referred to as quick hitters, usually lasting no longer than 10 to 15 minutes, although they can last longer. The idea is to fit in as many different types of scenarios as possible, rotating personnel from position to position. This provides every officer with several different perspectives, including that of the suspect(s). These are interactive role-playing scenarios utilizing Simunition® training



The Clearwater Police Department's multi-tiered SWAT tryout includes a grueling fitness test.

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SWAT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

Continued from page 24



The Cleveland Division of Police SWAT conducting scenario training alongside their armored rescue vehicle which is nicknamed "Mother"

rounds, and are complete with safety monitoring, an exercise officer and debriefings held after each scenario or a series of scenarios.

Some examples of mini scenarios are drug raid/search, officer down drill (inside a structure and/or employing "Mother" (SWAT's armored rescue vehicle), hostage rescue, and barricade stealth entry and search.

Scenario training is broken down into two levels. Level 1 is basic for new Cleveland SWAT personnel and the other teams with whom they train and work. It tends to be more instructive, starting

from scratch as slow, repetitive, methodical training with the intention of repeating it until they get it right. Level 2 is advanced tactical training for veteran SWAT officers. Much more is expected from them and they are cross-trained to be capable of doing every job when needed, with the exception of the role of countersnipers who are assigned individual scoped rifles. However, countersnipers also are cross-trained in every SWAT-related capacity.

Initially, the CPD SWAT Physical Fitness Test (PFT) was performed three times a year, but this soon increased to four times yearly. The test measures general fitness, strength and endurance needed for SWAT operations, and involves the following four events: 1) pull-ups – 20 maximum; 2) sit-ups – 80 maximum in two minutes; 3) push-ups – 50 maximum; and 4) a three mile run – 18 minutes maximum.

Applicants not passing the PFT are eliminated as candidates. In-service SWAT officers failing the PFT are given a onetime retest, which, if failed, results in a transfer

from SWAT.

In recent years, Cleveland SWAT has changed the PFT, combining it with elements of the Cooper Institute PFT (including a timed 1.5 mile run), pull-ups and other events.

Firearms: Cleveland SWAT has established high standards for firearms training courses and qualifications with every type of firearm utilized by SWAT officers. These include handgun, rifle, subgun, shotgun, and scoped rifle (for designated countersnipers). All SWAT candidates must also take and score "expert" on the CPD firearms qualification course with their issued handgun and shotgun.

Additionally, CPD established training qualifications for all equipment and tactics employed by it for every type of SWAT assignment/situation. These range from hostage/barricade/active shooter to high risk warrants and riot control.

Other specific areas of training include chemical agents/launchers, less-lethal munitions/launchers, entry tools, vehicles (including "Mother" ARV), and ballistic shields.

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SWAT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

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The two week basic SWAT school held at the Clearwater Police Department includes this rope traverse training exercise. Completion of a basic SWAT school is a prerequisite for full membership on the team.

Emergency medicine is taught by SWAT's full-time Cleveland Fire and EMS paramedics, and K-9 training and tactics are taught by the unit's full-time SWAT K-9 team.

Training for SWAT is year-round, non-stop and challenging, covering virtually all aspects of SWAT and tactical-type assignments. Cleveland SWAT also trains and works with other Ohio SWAT teams and with federal tactical units.

Performance: For SWAT (CPD SWAT included), this term means greatly exceeding established minimum standards for any and all SWAT-related items, and taking great pride in following the former U.S. Army slogan: *Be All You Can Be*. Expectations of perfection are understandably high and for very good reason, since SWAT is tasked with handling the highest risk situations faced by law enforcement.

The following quote says it best about the importance of training and setting high performance standards, "When you aren't practicing, somewhere, someone is and, when you meet him, he will win."

Pasco Sheriff's Office, Pasco County, Florida

The Pasco Sheriff's Office has approximately 760 sworn members in total, with approximately 500 law enforcement and 260 detention officers, 21 of whom are integrated as part of the SWAT element. The SWAT team is the only one in

Pasco County and they provide service for all 500,000 citizens spread over 868 square miles.

SWAT Selection Requirements and Tryouts: Individuals must be either law enforcement certified or detention certified members of the TACT team (detention's tactical unit), who have successfully completed their probationary year with



The Pasco County Sheriff's Office SWAT requires that performance standards be met in its realistic scenario training.

their respective law enforcement agency. Tryouts are also open to members of other law enforcement organizations within Pasco County at the discretion of the Joint Operations Bureau Commander.

Prior to attending SWAT tryouts, candidates are required to pass the probationary standards of the Physical Readiness Test (PRT) to ensure that they meet the basic physical criteria for probationary membership on the Pasco SWAT team. The PRT is held on a day separate from the tryout.

SWAT tryouts are held annually as long as vacancies exist within the team. Supplemental tryouts can be held at the discretion of the SWAT Commander in order to fill critical needs which may arise. Tryout standards are two tiered, with a full member level of 90% on all shooting events.

The process consists of the following events: 1) SWAT obstacle course, timed; 2) 48 round handgun course (the former Florida Department of Law Enforcement certification course); 3) ten round stress shooting course – performed from the seven yard line in soft body armor; 4) rappelling; 5) discretionary shooting course, utilizing Simunition® in soft body armor, timed; 6) 200 meter pool swim in BDUs (no boots); 7) 15 minute water tread in BDUs (no boots); and 8) 40 push-ups/45 sit-ups, timed, one minute each.

Candidates passing all of these requirements then sit for an oral board of selected SWAT members. Medical and psychological examinations are conducted by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist chosen by the sheriff at the agency's expense. The Joint Operations Bureau commander, the Special Operations Division commander and the SWAT commander review the results and forward the documentation to the Human Resources Division for filing.

The Joint Operations Bureau commander may require additional examinations and has final approval of candidates. He may also remove a member from the team at any time.

Completion of a basic SWAT school is a prerequisite for full membership on the team and a member must complete a school program within the probationary year. Basic SWAT school curriculums are composed of many performance requirements, such as ballistic shield tactics; room, stair, hallway, and building clearing; cover and concealment; officer down rescues; vehicle takedowns; less-le-



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SWAT STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

Continued from page 28



Part of the Clearwater Police Department's multi-tiered SWAT tryout includes a 30 yard low crawl in full tactical gear with rifle and helmet, with elbows and knees touching the ground at all times.

thal weaponry; and others.

Clearwater, Florida, Police Department

Clearwater, Florida, has a population of 115,000 with 240 sworn police officers; 24 of these are members of the tactical

team along with nine SWAT trained tactical medics and 11 negotiators.

Similar to Pasco County Sheriff's Office requirements, completion of a basic SWAT school is a prerequisite for full membership on the team and a member must complete a school within the probationary year.

Fitness Standards: The following fitness standards are included in the multi-tiered SWAT tryout which also measures weapons proficiency, scenario-based problem solving, rappelling, gas exposure, and a formal interview with SWAT command staff.

The team utilizes a SWAT "task oriented" fitness test which includes a half mile run in full tactical gear with tactical footwear and a shoulder-fired weapon (suggested time is six minutes, but most members finish it in around three minutes); a 60 yard run in full tactical gear and gas mask while carrying a single person ram or dumbbell of similar weight (suggested time is 15 seconds); a 30 yard low crawl in full tactical gear with rifle and helmet, elbows and knees touching the ground at all times (suggested time is 60 seconds); climb over a six foot fence unassisted in full gear (pass or fail) with helmet and vest; pull-ups in full tactical gear (minimum of five is required); dips in full tactical gear (minimum of five is required); run four floors or eight flights of stairs in full tactical gear while carrying a ram or dumbbell of similar weight (suggested time is 30 seconds); and move or drag the heaviest team member 20 yards by any safe method with both members in full tactical gear (suggested time is 40 seconds). All tactical members conduct physical recertification and weapon qualifications annually.



Another segment of the Clearwater Police Department's SWAT tryout includes moving or dragging the heaviest team member 20 yards by any safe method, with both members wearing full tactical gear.

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The Clearwater Police Department SWAT scenario training includes the use of less-lethal weaponry.

The Obstacle Course: This involves the following obstacles: three, four foot walls placed at the 25 yard line; Jacob's ladder; rope climb; over/unders; attic entry; dirty name; three tire flips; low crawl; slide; cargo net; triple X; tunnel; Pete's dragon; the horning (formerly known as the eight foot wall); ladder traverse; snake pit; and rope traverse. The SWAT candidate is shown a facial photo of a subject for no more than ten seconds prior to beginning the course. As soon as the applicant clears the final obstacle, he/she then proceeds onto the firing range for weapon acquisition, assembly and the successful discharge of two rounds into the photo target shown at the start of the course which has been mixed into various different facial photos

Stress Shooting Course: This course is conducted after the cold qualification course. It is scored on four criteria: 1) the time required to complete the course; 2) the number of hits on the steel plates; 3) rifle hits; and 4) whether or not the applicant successfully completes the target identification portion of the course.

The course is as follows: The timer begins and the candidate then crawls through a black tube and runs over to a telephone pole to a prepositioned sledgehammer. Carrying the sledgehammer, he/she negotiates over a four foot wall and conducts ten left-handed and ten right-handed strikes to a tractor tire.

Carrying the sledgehammer, the candidate low crawls between two cones and

then performs 20 push-ups with his/her feet on the deck. This is followed by a downed officer drag between designated cones, negotiation of several cones set in a serpentine pattern, scaling a four foot wall, and proceeding to the first shooting station. There, the candidate loads and fires five AR-15 rounds from the 25 yard line from the standing position (non-supported) at a blue B-21 target. After making the weapon safe and grounding it, another four foot wall is negotiated.

The candidate then dons a prepositioned gas mask, assembles his/her handgun, loads it, and fires nine rounds at nine steel plates from a distance of 15 yards. Then, picking up a prepositioned ram, he/she proceeds up a shooting berm, runs along it, and then proceeds back down toward the range to the finish line.

The time is recorded, as are hits/misses on the steel plates and the AR-15 course.

The Bottom Line

While there are no national standards or performance qualifications, it can be seen from these examples that individual agencies have taken up the slack and created their own programs and these programs work. **P&SN**

Mickey Davis is an award winning author and a senior volunteer member of a California fire department.

Jim Weiss is a retired Brook Park, Ohio, Police Department lieutenant.

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A man in a green uniform and sunglasses is shown from the side, working on a vehicle. He is holding a black cable or hose. The background shows a building and a cloudy sky.

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The Tactical EMS School: Delivering Realistic Training for Tactical Medical Operators

Todd Burke, Jim Weiss and Mickey Davis

Having a solid medical component integrated into your tactical team is not just an option. According to the National Tactical Officers Association's (NTOA's) list of "best practices" in 2003, it is a standard.

Sixteen years before the NTOA's best practices were presented, the "Tactical EMS School" was created by four active police paramedics who recognized the need to deliver true medical support into the inner perimeter. The school offered a way to bring this advanced life support – Tactical Emergency Casualty Care – to the hot crisis zones of the SWAT, EMS and law enforcement worlds. Taught were immediate care techniques for mass attacks and "care under fire" for incidents such as the Boston Marathon or the First Baptist Church in Sutherland, Texas. These are high risk solutions in dangerous environments, often similar to environments where military combat medics can be found.

The original program lasted three days. In 1993, it was expanded to five days and became residency-based, including lodging and meals in the price of tuition. It also gained accreditation by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

In 1995, the course moved to Camp Ripley, MN, which offered more suitable

remote and private facilities, and took training away from populated areas and unnecessary distractions.

In 2014, the school was endorsed by the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC) for delivering "approved educational content" (<http://www.c-tecc.org/>).

In 2015, it was accredited by the International Board of Specialty Certifications for those seeking to recertify this specialty under their auspices. The Tactical EMS School offers continuing medical education units formatted to meet National Registry guidelines and the program is approved in many states for POST credits.

In 2017, the program celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Cadre of Coaches

The staff is made up of 20 coaches, all of whom have significant operational experience. Each brings special and unique skills to the table and most are veteran paramedics within a police or fire department. The medical director is an orthopedic surgeon with an extensive back-

ground in military battlefield medicine and has ties to the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). There is also a tactically trained veterinarian who is part of the FEMA USAR Task Force system responsible for assessing and approving USAR K9s, prior to the dogs being approved for deployments. K9s are utilized throughout the week during the course.

Schedule for the Week

Training days begin at 0600 with stretching/injury prevention and problem solving team initiatives which provide a healthy workout in the context of pure teamwork.

This experience runs for 77 hours over six days, including evening operations which might extend past midnight. An average day is 13 hours; however, team members have their kits squared away for possible middle of the night callouts. Additional evening sessions are optional for those wanting additional experience handling firearms, learning how to make a personal rescue harness with webbing, or practicing airway techniques.



A SWAT sergeant with minimal medical experience learns the basics of emergency airway management.

The Curriculum

A weeklong course cannot adequately cover everything a tactical medic needs to learn; however, training time and team building are maximized by keeping team members together for the entire week during training, deployments and meals. Team members begin the day with injury prevention, team initiatives, a team break-fast, and training in simulated conditions by making the training ground resemble a

battle zone as much as possible.

Training begins with personal introductions; concepts and philosophy; occupational medicine (which is a large part of what Tactical Emergency Medical Support [TEMS] is about); roles and responsibilities; and firearms and weapons familiarization.

There isn't a live-fire component in this program. Being able to handle and render tactical firearms safely is an essential skill which is taught during the week – learning how to fight with a firearm belongs in another specialized training session.

The class is separated into four teams (red, white, blue, and gray) and participants are given corresponding colored shirts, with coaches wearing black shirts. Teams remain intact all week and work through over 20 different operational exercises and team initiatives, some as brief as 15 to 30 minutes, while full mission profiles last six to eight hours.

Whether a participant is a basic life support first responder or an emergency physician, each scenario is designed and managed in a variety of ways, depending

upon individual skill level and licensure. It is a common occurrence to discover that, at some point during training, each person is the weakest link on their team and, at another point, the strongest asset.

First responders, nurses, physicians, surgeons, and other professionals are distributed over the four teams to emphasize the importance of the team dynamic and



Students are periodically deprived of their senses to gain confidence in skill performance. During team initiatives, this operator inspects a common tactical firearm and renders it safe.

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THE TACTICAL EMS SCHOOL: DELIVERING REALISTIC TRAINING FOR TACTICAL MEDICAL OPERATORS

Continued from page 35

how their individual talents contribute to the team. Attitude and behavior are deemed more important than any rank or title, and knowing when to follow is just as important as knowing when to lead.

Tactical concept exercises include weapons familiarization; casualty collection points; concealment and camouflage; arrest and control; team movement with a medical package; lawful use

of force; the psychology of hostage taking; medicine across the barricade; and immediate action drills.

Medical concept labs include the medic's role; wound packing; chest seals and decompression; tourniquets; tactical medical preplanning; patient packaging; extended orthopedics; stress management; SALT triage; and new threats, such as the drug, carfentanil.

Practical exercises include airway management; hemorrhage control; sensory deprivation; chemical agents; remote patient assessment; officer down rescue; patient movement; adjuncts for rescue; K-9 medical and trauma; and full mission profiles.

Training Examples

The Burrito Wrap Technique – This technique is taken from wilderness medicine and search and rescue disciplines. It utilizes a Reflexcell™ blanket, a Thermolite® pad underneath, a regular tarp, and a SAM® Splint to create a head wrap and visor. A length of utility rope laces it all together so that the patient can be carried long distances. A Burrito Wrap can be particularly useful when rescuers anticipate an extended evacuation time or the patient cannot readily be evacuated by vehicle.

First, the patient is medically stabilized with whatever treatments need to be performed (tourniquet, wound pack, IV placement, etc.) or adjunct devices placed (splints, pelvic stabilizers, etc.). A 75 to 100 foot piece of utility or rescue rope is laid out in a back and forth cascading line. An 8' x 10' poly tarp is then placed on top of this for the final covering before the patient is laced into the wrapped package.

For the patient, the first consideration is to remove/replace as much wet clothing as possible. Adding an adult hygiene garment can be a big plus for the injured person who needs to void while the over-



A wilderness rescue technique utilizing a Reflexcell™ blanket, a Thermolite® pad, a regular tarp, and a SAM® splint. A piece of utility rope laces it all together and the patient can then be carried for long distances.

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land carry is in progress since they are notably packaged and stopping to unwrap for a break would not be practical.

Effecting Rescue – The original 1996 Tactical Combat Casualty Care postulates state that the priorities of care are: 1) self aid, 2) buddy aid, and 3) medic aid. In the tactical environment, performing the correct medical intervention in the wrong place or at the wrong time can get team members killed. This is one of the main reasons every person is tourniquet equipped and skilled. Other members of the team may be engaged in an active gunfight while you are involved with stopping your own blood loss after taking a round.

It is also essential for the medical rescue team members to communicate well with the tactical team leadership and understand that the team leader remains in charge. This means treatment of a casualty may be interrupted, or not occur, until the team moves to a better and more defensible position.

In one of the many scenarios practiced, medics begin to perform care on



A hasty rescue is performed in an officer ambushed scenario. The coach in the black jacket acts as a medical monitor to ensure that the correct medical interventions are performed at the correct time.

a downed officer after the team runs 100 yards to reach him, with the tactical element providing overwatch. After 60 seconds of treatment, the team takes incoming fire. Blanks and Noise and Flash Diversionary Devices (NFDDs) are discharged, smoke is thrown, people are yelling, and the tactical officers are busy expending magazines. Placing medics in this situation during training goes a long way to reinforce the adage that few plans

survive first contact with the bad guys.

Sensory Deprivation and Overload

– There is also value in suppressing or overstimulating students' senses to push the learning curve and demonstrate that something can be done differently or in an unconventional way.

For example, airway management is a staple for medical responders, but doing this upside down, in darkness, or when your hands are so cold you can't feel them

Continued on page 38

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THE TACTICAL EMS SCHOOL: DELIVERING REALISTIC TRAINING FOR TACTICAL MEDICAL OPERATORS

Continued from page 37



A medical team performs a variety of interventions on a patient. Note the latex wound packing prop next to the patient's leg.

may offer a degree of reality. Prior to performing an airway procedure on a mannequin, participants are required to run up and down four to six flights of stairs and then plunge their hands into a five gallon bucket of ice water for 60 seconds. Afterwards, they are required to perform the technique.

At another skill station, all participants wear gas masks which are taped over so they can't see. Students then have to move to an injured operator and perform a physical exam according to the Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) "MARCH" (Massive bleeding, Airway, Respirations, Circulation, Hypothermia/head injury) principles. When they discover a firearm on a brain injured, mind altered, or unconscious operator, they have to take control of it, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direc-



Learning correct lifting and handling of a service dog is important. The school's 120 pound assistant helps students learn how to do this safely.

tion and render it safe. This emphasizes that, while medics may not need to qualify or perform with every firearm and tool in their team's inventory, they must be able to handle them safely and take charge in all conditions.

Tear Gas – Students practice how to don, clear, doff, and store/carry their gas masks. Afterwards, the face pieces are blacked out and they perform simple medical tasks to overcome their sensory deprivation, reinforcing that they don't necessarily have to see to solve the problem.

Additionally, there is a static and controlled exposure to a CS agent (tear gas). Students remove their masks, clear them and remain in the gas environment. The objective of the drill is not to prove that CS is unpleasant, but rather to recover a mask which has been pulled from their face, regain a seal and continue the job while they are in this environment.

Finally, an unexpected exposure is introduced while a medical rescue is in progress, with the instructors causing the operators to experience a mask failure. While very unpleasant, focusing on the medical interventions necessary to save the life of a teammate helped to overcome fear and the strong urge to flee or panic. This was a profound learning opportunity for many.

The 2018 Tactical EMS School is scheduled for September 23-28, 2018, at Camp Ripley, MN. For more information, go to <http://tactical-specialties.com/tactical-ems-school/>. **P&SN**

Todd Burke is a 35 year decorated veteran of the emergency services as a police officer, firefighter and paramedic. He holds a variety of instructional certifications in multiple disciplines and has been the director of the Tactical EMS School for the last 24 years (www.tactical-specialties.com).

Jim Weiss is a retired Brook Park, Ohio, Police Department lieutenant.

Mickey Davis is an award winning author and a senior volunteer member of a California fire department.

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The Basics of Higher Education

Dr. Stephenie Slahor

Your reasons for higher education may be connected to the opportunity for promotion, advancement or better salary. Or higher education may be a long held desire to acquire knowledge in your career or your specialization. So, whether your goal is “earn,” “learn” or a combination of both, decide the degree and subject area which will be your focus and which colleges or universities offer the better, or best, programs in that field.

Degree Programs

An associate two year degree pro-

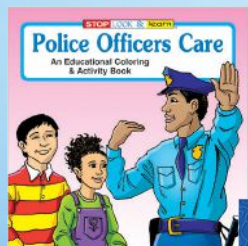
gram will give your studies an overview and basic foundation (100 and 200 level courses). The associate degree (AA for Associate of Arts) is generally offered at community/junior colleges, technical colleges, vocational schools, and at a few colleges. The degree is usually completed after one year of general college level liberal arts and science courses, and another year of specialized study in the discipline chosen. Associate degrees usually transfer to some of the requirements for the bachelor’s degree’s four year program at a college or university, but it will depend on the courses taken,

grades in those courses and any applicable state laws or university policies about transfer of credit.

A bachelor’s degree four year program (also known as a baccalaureate degree) will include basic undergraduate studies, but will add upper division courses (300 and 400 level) for a deeper understanding of the essentials of the field of knowledge. Students with successful high school advanced placement courses, or students who enroll in summer school courses, may be able to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in three years. Commonly, the degree is based on suc-

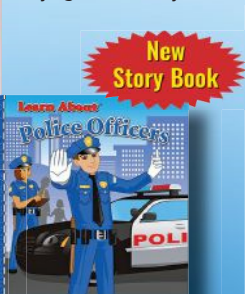
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MANAGEMENT TIP

Community surveys can be done by professional companies and can be costly, or they could be done by telephone by college interns at no cost. Community surveys can also be done by sending a survey to crime victims in the mail or via E-mail. Large areas of the city can be surveyed through water bills, with the return survey color-coded to reflect certain geographic areas of the city. Survey data can be used to assess fear of crime, respect for the police, perceived effectiveness of the police, etc.

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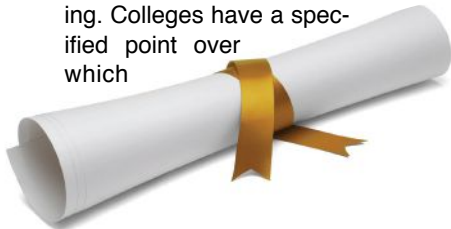
successful completion of courses and generally does not require a senior level thesis, although there are some universities which do have this requirement. The degree is usually designated as a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA), depending on the college's classification system and the particular curriculum.

The next level is the master's degree – an advanced degree in a particular field. A bachelor's degree is required for admission to a master's program, but some foundation courses may be necessary if the bachelor's degree was in a different field, or if it did not contain the correct coursework for the advanced study needed for a master's degree. Most colleges and universities require that students seeking admission to a master's degree program take one, or more, standardized tests, such as the Graduate Record Examination or the Graduate Management Admission Test. These standardized examinations appraise the student's skills in grammar, vocabulary, mathematics, English, comprehension, analysis, reasoning, and critical thinking. Colleges have a specified point over which

the student must score on the standardized test(s) in order to be admitted to the master's degree program. As its name implies, the master's degree curriculum is developed to give "mastery" over a particular field of advanced study of both the theoretical and practical aspects. The work involves much more than a bachelor's degree would and includes a great deal of analysis, evaluation and practical application. A thesis is usually required by most reputable colleges or universities. The thesis is an independent report by the student and considers a complex question or problem, and the findings related to the question's or problem's analysis or solution. The typical master's degree candidate will have a committee of faculty members overseeing the progress of the thesis, and approving – or not approving – it. Ordinarily, one member of that committee is from a field completely unrelated to the master's degree being sought. This helps evaluate the student's clarity, reasoning, critical evaluation, and related skills as seen by an "outsider" to the topic being studied in the thesis. The master's degree is usually designated as a Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS) or a specialization such as Master of Education (MEd). The master's curriculum usually needs two to three years to complete. Among the master's level offerings pertinent to law enforcement

or security are such specializations as criminology, law, cybersecurity, forensics, terrorism, technology and data analytics, social and behavioral psychology, sociological aspects of criminal justice, juvenile delinquency, public finance, urban/intercultural sociology, criminal justice policy, drug policy, statistics in criminal justice, courts/criminal procedure, homeland security, agricultural and food safety biosecurity, management and organizational leadership, and emergency/crisis management.

A doctoral degree in the United States is typically denoted as a Doctor of Philosophy or PhD program, even though the study of philosophy is not actually a major part of the curriculum. (Instead, the designation is based upon the original Greek in which "philosophy" meant "love of wisdom.") This is the highest academic degree awarded by universities and it carries such prestige that the PhD graduate is entitled to use the title "Doctor" before his/her name, or use the post-nominal letters "PhD" after his/her name. (Doctorates in theology, law or medicine usually have different designations such as DD for Doctor of Divinity; LLD for Doctor of Laws; JD for Juris Doctor; or MD for Doctor of Medicine.) While requirements differ from university to university, the PhD program is extremely selective of its candidates. Coursework is at the 500 level and above and the program can take years to complete. Most universities require a doctoral dissertation – a study far more complex and thorough than a master's degree thesis and which must be original and academic and worthy of publication in a professional, peer-reviewed publication. Just as with a master's degree, the candidate will have a faculty member committee overseeing the candidate's individual program and the progress and completion of the dissertation. Rigorous discussions and examinations of the dissertation will take place not only at the completion of the dissertation, but all along its way from start to finish. The final approval (or disapproval) of the dissertation is often called "oral examinations" or "orals" because it is conducted in person by all members of the candidate's committee and can take hours to complete as the candidate discusses and defends the work done within the dissertation topic. The dissertation can be up to hundreds of pages. As is the case with the master's degree thesis,



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and for the same reasons, at least one member of the committee will be from a field completely unrelated to the candidate's field. In most fields, the PhD degree is a criterion for obtaining a professorship or a research position.

Certificate Programs

A recent addition to higher education is certificate programs. These are sets of courses usually dealing with one specific topic. In law enforcement and security, certificates usually relate to honing abilities and knowledge in law enforcement intelligence and analysis, applied psychology, report writing, or specific communication or judgmental skills. As an example, Michigan State University's College of Social Science School of Criminal Justice offers certificates in anti-counterfeiting and product protection; conservation criminology; homeland security; international focus; judicial administration; intelligence analysis; and security management. Certificate programs can usually be pursued either while the student is enrolled in a degree program or while he/she is seeking professional development and career enhancement. Many certificate programs involve four to six courses.

Deciding on the college or university to attend means examining programs, course descriptions, retention (how many students continue a program after beginning it), graduation rates, admission policies, costs, quality of faculty, and whether to attend on campus or online. You can seek help from education counselors, other students, teachers or professors, or the Internet.

Resources

One Web-based starting point is www.criminaljusticeprograms.com which has information for both law enforcement and security concerning programs, and the colleges and universities offering certificate, associate's, bachelor's, master's and PhD programs.

"College Navigator" is a service of the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Center for Education Statistics. It includes data for over 7600 colleges and universities. Log on to <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>. At the top box, type the name of the school you are considering or, in the next box, indicate the state(s) or regions from which you will consider schools. The next box will let you indicate a ZIP code and the num-

ber of miles from that ZIP code which you would consider traveling. You may click "Browse For Programs" to find the specific area of study in which you have an interest, such as "Homeland Security" or "Computer and Information Sciences." Check the box appropriate to the certificate or degree level, and the type of school you would consider (public, private/nonprofit, four year, etc.). Click the "Show Results" box and you will receive a list appropriate to the specific factors you have indicated. Extended search options allow examining tuition and fees, accreditation, student enrollment, campus type, extended learning opportunities including distance learning, weekend/evening classes, credit for life experiences, religious affiliation, student outcomes, and other items of specific inquiry.

The US Department of Education recently launched "College Scorecard" which functions similarly to College Navigator. Log on to <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov> to find and compare schools by programs, degrees, geographic location, size, or name. You can also do advanced searches in the type of school, its specialized mission (religious affiliation, men's, women's, Asian, Hispanic, Black, etc.). Other sections of the Web site cover financial aid, calculating

aid, GI Bill benefits, schools with lower tuition costs, graduation rates, and other data.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has a college-related Web page defined as "a work in progress," but, if you are a veteran, you will learn about programs and schools. Log on to <https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/> and enter your military status, which GI Bill you are considering using for your education, your cumulative post-911 active duty service, whether you will be taking classes online or in class, and the name of a school you are considering. Other pages and links include how to choose a school, the degree you want, how well the school supports veterans, and financing your education.

Also for veterans is the US Department of Defense "Tuition Assistance DECIDE" tool about schools and programs. It is particularly focused to part-time students. Presently, it compares about 2600 schools. Log on to <http://www.dodmou.com> and click the tab at the top for "Tuition Assistance DECIDE." **P&SN**

Stephenie Slahor, PhD, JD, is a writer in the fields of law enforcement and security. She can be reached at drss12@msn.com.

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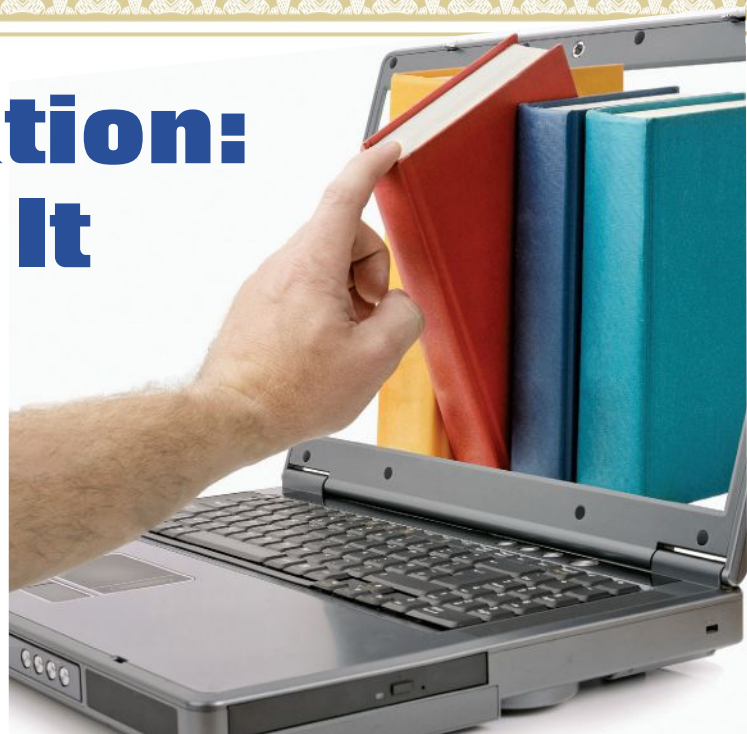


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Online Education: How to Make It Work for You

Management of your time is critical to your success if you decide to obtain your higher education through an online distance learning program.

Dr. Stephenie Slahor



Way back when, there were “correspondence courses” in which a course curriculum was set by a university and a faculty member directed a student, by mail, in study, readings, assignments, and exams. The idea worked well for people who lived far from a university, but who wanted to study a particular course. It also worked for students who wanted to complete their degree requirements, but needed a course which was not going to be offered in a timely way.

That system worked, but technology has now advanced to the point that the mail is not generally thought of as the most expedient way to communicate quickly with someone. The Internet, E-mail, conference calls and messaging, two-way videoconferencing, Skype, Interactive TV and smartphone apps are a few of the developments which have enhanced communications.

While most of these developments were designed to benefit commerce and communications, education was not far behind. Colleges and universities soon found that educational goals could be reached by far more people regardless of their distance from a campus. Early distance learning used televised broadcasts to reach satellite campus classrooms. A lecturer could broadcast the day's lesson and assignments, and students would complete course requirements. That start led to what we now call online education which includes not only courses, but complete programs which

can be accomplished without having a student ever set foot on a college or satellite campus.

The Early Days

As rosy as that sounds, online education went through some serious growing pains because many looked skeptically as questions arose about the requirements and quality of teaching of those courses. Online education suffered a poor image for some time, especially with employers or with universities considering the application of a master's or doctoral-level student who had completed some undergraduate or upper division degree work online. Terms like “fly by night” or “instant degree” made online education look shady to some.

At that point, colleges and universities realized they had to improve the status of online programs by examining closely the quality of instruction and the consistency of curricula as compared to on-campus education. That realization and the steps taken to collaborate and coordinate online and campus programs could then assure students, employers and academia that online programs could be equal to the study, participation and discipline of the on-campus programs. When public universities and private colleges with high reputations demonstrated this, online learning became more respectable because it had to adhere to strict standards to succeed.

Of course, not all curricula lend

themselves to online formats, but most do. Still, it must be considered whether the “community” of students can easily communicate student-to-teacher and student-to-student, and whether the technology is enough to access the course content and to complete assignments, discussions and other class activities.

Online programs meant training faculty members in the ways to implement effective learning. And students needed an orientation session before beginning a course to be sure that not only their technology, but also their personalities fit with the online format. The planning of any course or an activity within a course is the responsibility of the college's individual department and its faculty members, but there must also be supervision by the college to assure that its online learning is equivalent to and consistent with the on-campus version of the course.

Basic Necessities

Technology now permits smooth communications systems for online study. A typical system has a learning management mode of operation; student identity verification; student portals; course content and schedule; textbook(s); access for computer/laptop/smartphone/tablet devices; integration of supplemental library resources; course methods (including lecture, readings, graded discussions, writing assignments, projects, quizzes, and ex-

aminations); and a means for faculty to track whether the student is participating, doing assignments, checking into reference and resource materials, and following the requirements of the course.

Colleges were eager to add online programs and there are now a wide variety of degree and course options available to students whose time constraints, work or distance from a campus prohibit attending on a campus.

With that variety comes the need for you to consider which particular online programs are best suited for your career or personal goals. You may find that a college has a suitable bachelor's degree program, but, if you are anticipating continuing to a master's, certificate or other graduate program, see if the college offers both undergraduate and graduate level courses. You may want the benefit of continuity with the professors, department and program, should you be pondering a graduate degree. Undergraduate courses build a framework or foundation for learning, but the

graduate level courses give educational opportunities for advanced study, upper echelon jobs and further growth in a particular specialization. So, read the college catalogs and examine the curricula before you apply for admission. E-mail links and online chats are usually provided on most universities' Web sites so, if a question is not answered by your own research, contact the school for an answer.

Although colleges still have a traditional on-campus setting as the norm for much of higher education, online programs and coursework are gaining enrollment at both public and private universities. But, remember that online study requires your knowledge of computer and Internet skills. If they are weak, learn the terminology of those skills and hone your abilities in how to type; how to manage files (name, save, copy, paste, spell-check, save in a different format, backup, delete, etc.); how to use software (Word®, PowerPoint®, etc.); how to E-mail and chat (discussion boards,

messengers, etc.); and how to research via search engines and library databases. If you're rusty in any of these, check with your local public library, community center, or friends who can help.

For the best progress through a course or program, you should have a high speed Internet connection and a recent model of computer or laptop and software. You may be able to do a system check through the university to be certain that your computer and technical requirements are capable. Your school may also have technical support, perhaps even 24/7. Determine whether your smartphone may be able to communicate with the instructor and students, and to participate in coursework or discussions, receive alerts and check class materials.

Beyond the technical side, be sure your personal reading and writing skills are strong. Most of what you will learn in an online format will be written and text-based communications. Brush up your reading and writing skills, if necessary.

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What to Expect?

The online course(s) you are taking will only be attainable if you have self-discipline. Although it is difficult to generalize, most three credit hour online courses will need about ten to twelve hours or more per week of study. Your learning will not

have "someone watching over your shoulder" to see that you complete something. Online learning is up to you and you alone. It is definitely not "self-study" in style. The work is just like on-campus study with the interaction and assignments. The instructor will provide you with the course

requirements, activities and examinations, but motivation is entirely up to you. You must have the motivation to stay with the weekly regimen of expected student performance. That means establishing a regular, strict schedule of study in a physical setting conducive to study – uninterrupted, without distractions and without procrastination. You cannot succeed in online study if you put things off until the last minute or misuse your time. Because online courses usually provide updates during the week for text readings, resource books, assignments and their subfolders, writing, and discussion, make it a habit to log in every day to be sure that you are keeping up with changes, additions and modifications.

You are the one who must follow through with every assignment, discussion, messaging interaction with the instructor and/or students, and other activities which are the full substance of the course. Often, the coursework has assignments which must be completed within the week and cannot wait for the weekend. Stay current with the course schedule.

Set a system of organizing your course timelines and college policies and procedures so that you can reference them quickly when needed.

Learning styles differ from person to person, but don't be surprised if you find that your personal motivation is high at the start of a course, but wanes near the midpoint of the course. Remain disciplined and determined to work through that plateau because your instructor or fellow students won't maintain your motivation for you. Online education means it's up to you as self-directed, and not instructor-directed. Also, you may find that the course seems to move quickly and that is another reason to avoid trying to do all the work at the same time.

Instructors will grade you on your progress, not only on assignments, but also on your participation in discussion boards, responding to topics or questions, and interacting with other students and the instructor. Note: Your instructor and the college will have plagiarism detection software which makes sure that what you write is your own intellectual analysis and evaluation, not something which was "cut and pasted" into a written assignment.

P&SN

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

DUTY GUNS AND FIREARMS TRAINING

When I started out as a young, wet behind the ears police officer, I never imagined many of the advancements in technology and training which are available today.

Todd Fletcher

Back in “the good old days,” in-car computers were a distant dream. Cell phones were bulky and expensive. Firearms training was nothing more than static shooting on stationary paper targets. Patrol rifles were unheard of outside of special teams and assignments, and the only optics anyone talked about were the reading glasses found on the “old guys.” Twenty-three years later, I’m one of the old guys with reading glasses, but our training and gear continues to develop even quicker than I could have envisioned.

PATROL RIFLES REDEFINED

The routine use of patrol rifles has gained widespread acceptance over the past several years. Today, it’s unusual to see a patrol vehicle without a reliable duty rifle mounted within easy access. Unlike previous generations of police officers, we have the capability to bring increased accuracy and range to lethal encounters which allows both officers and communities to be better protected. However, the use of rifles, particularly indoors, has shone light on another problem: hearing damage and loss.

Hearing damage has always been a potential result of using a firearm without hearing protection. We can lose our hearing to the noise of a handgun, but the use of rifles without hearing protection is leading to more conversation about the realities of permanent hearing loss in our police officers.

This will likely result in more widespread use of “silencers” on patrol rifles. Hearing protection is more important than most law enforcement officers and administrators will admit. Aside from the quality of life issues, an on-the-job injury claim of permanent hearing damage is extremely expensive. Hearing aids cost approximately \$2,000 each and need to be replaced about every five years. For a 40-year-old officer who lives to 80 years of age, this means the on-the-job injury claim could cost over \$32,000. A bona fide example of this problem is the experience of the Spokane Police Department. In late 2017, it was announced that the department’s 181 patrol rifles were to be equipped with suppressors (sometimes erroneously referred to as “silencers”). This was the result of five officers within the department who have filed claims with the Department of Labor and Industries as a result of hearing loss from gunfire. In one incident, an officer was forced to utilize his patrol rifle in close proximity to another officer, who was left with permanent hearing damage. A high quality suppressor runs approximately \$800 and can last tens of thousands of



There is a fair amount of misinformation surrounding the use of suppressors, mainly due to the manner in which they are represented in movies and on TV.

rounds with proper maintenance and use. The cost of hearing aids compared to the low cost of a quality silencer should make the bean counters stand up and take notice!

Suppressors take the edge off the "loudness" of firearms. Typically, patrol rifles produce up to 152 dB of sound. A suppressor can lower this level of noise to 134 dB, lower than the OSHA standard for sound which can create permanent hearing loss, 140 dB. Utilizing these devices reduces the potential for hearing loss and provides an environment which promotes better communication between officers and dispatchers, allowing them to interact more effectively during life threatening incidents.

Another tool which will make our patrol rifles more effective is a greater use of night vision and thermal imagers. We are all familiar with the performance advantages a quality flashlight has provided for our duty rifle setup, but more and more patrol rifles will shift from lighting up the dark to seeing in the dark. Night vision and thermal imagers give officers a big advantage by allowing them to operate safely and more efficiently in low light. As



Night vision devices provide a great advantage to officers when operating in low light conditions.

this technology improves, these products will continue to become lighter, smaller and more affordable.

The difference between night vision and thermal imagers is fairly simple. Night vision equipment gathers whatever ambient light is available and magnifies it into an image which can be seen by the operator. Since night vision uses visible light, it cannot be used during the day. In contrast, thermal imagers read the small differences in temperature between an object and

its environment to create an image for the user. They can be used day or night to detect these differences in temperature. Accordingly, the image of someone hiding in the bushes during the day will be displayed at almost the same quality as that same person hiding in the bushes at night. However, night vision devices typically provide better target recognition and identification compared to thermal.

When it comes to higher resolution and better target identification, the "seeing in the dark" industry is working overtime to make our jobs safer. Beyond the addition of more traditional night vision and thermal imagers on patrol rifles, the next step along the technological highway is the use of ShortWave InfraRed (SWIR) systems. SWIR optics produce high resolution images which offer a distinct tactical advantage over night vision and thermal imagers. SWIR makes objects easily recognizable and increases the user's ability to identify an object or individual.

NEXT GENERATION HANDGUNS

Speaking of optics, anyone paying attention to the retail and competition markets wouldn't be surprised to hear there



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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: DUTY GUNS & FIREARMS TRAINING

Continued from page 49



Duty-ready red dot optics will eventually become a reality for police sidearms.

will be more widespread acceptance and use of red dot optics on duty handguns. Trijicon, Leupold, SIG SAUER®, and others are getting closer to duty-ready red dot optics for handguns. The problem of battery life is close to being solved, leaving the question of duty-ready reliability to be fully answered. The major handgun manufacturers already produce their own line of optics-ready handguns. GLOCK® has the Modular Optic System (MOS) line, Smith & Wesson® has the M&P® Competition Optics Ready Equipment (C.O.R.E.) models, and SIG SAUER is ready with their P320 RX. These are proven versions of their law enforcement duty guns and are ready to ride in your duty holster today.

The wave of sound suppression technology and popularity will continue by making its way into our duty holsters. We will soon find integrated suppressors on duty handguns. There are several viable options currently available on the market

today. The Maxim 9 by SilencerCo is an example of an integrally suppressed 9mm handgun built for holster carry (<https://silencerco.com/maxim/>). The Maxim 9 is capable of using any quality 9mm ammunition, but the use of subsonic ammunition really sets this handgun apart. How much quieter is the Maxim 9 compared to a normal 9mm duty handgun? How about dropping the decibels from approximately 159 to 136 decibels! Repeated use without hearing protection can still result in hearing damage, but this represents a much safer sound level for our officers.

TRAINING GOES CUTTING EDGE

On the street, shot placement requires officers to consider the 360 degree aspects of the human torso. So, on the range, trainers will use more three-dimensional targets to better replicate and duplicate the human form. These targets will become increasingly realistic with the addition of three-dimensional vital organs included in target zones for better shot analysis. This allows shooters to see hits in relation to a threat's heart, lungs, spinal cord, and brain. Shooters not only have to consider shot placement when shooting directly in front of the target, but, in order to make combat effective hits, they will have to consider human anatomy when placing shots from angles.

Targets will also become more reactive. Combat effective hits will result in a visual response from the target. Systems

like the Action Target AutoTargets are a good start (<https://www.actiontarget.com/products/autotargets/>). This system uses built-in WiFi to create a network of targets which can be set up in nearly unlimited configurations over great distances. It uses hit sensing technology to provide instructor and shooter feedback without the need to continuously tape and replace targets. But, one of the best features of this hit sensing technology is the ability to program the system to react by falling or swinging down when one, or more, combat effective hit(s) is made. The next evolution of this type of system will be truly wireless and portable systems using three-dimensional moving and reactive targets. These moving targets will utilize the wireless hit sensing technology to confirm good hits and will result in a falling target.

Training will include more moving targets. Moving targets will move in three dimensions rather than just side to side to better simulate actual gunfight conditions. These moving targets will be combined with more threat/nonthreat targets requiring officers to identify and engage the threat targets without endangering nonthreats in the area. This will also require officers to evaluate the environment before engaging threats. Cardinal Firearms Safety Rule #4 will take on greater meaning in these drills and scenarios: Be sure of your target, backstop and beyond.

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Action Target's AutoTargets system utilizes hit sensing technology.



programs will involve making greater use of the new generation of duty weapons and targets. Expectations will increase, leading to a higher level of competency. Innovative departments and instructors will be presenting more advanced drills which combine multiple firearm, tactical first aid and emergency communication skills. The fundamental skills will always be important, but these skills will be applied in more intense drills which may begin with initial threat contact, transition to use-of-force decisions and practical application, emergency communication skills, custody response, and after action first aid assistance. There are agencies which already do this, but, moving into the future, more training will include these critical areas.

Looking back at the old guys, it's amazing they were able to accomplish so much without all the gizmos and gadgets which we now take for granted. I'm confident that, in a few years from now,

as technology continues to evolve, new recruits will be thinking the same thing. Our duty guns and firearms training programs are about to take a giant leap forward. From suppressors and better optics on patrol rifles and handguns, to training philosophies and target systems which push officers to increase their skill level, our police officers will be better prepared and equipped to deal with the law enforcement challenges of the future. **P&SN**

Todd Fletcher is a sergeant in Central Oregon with over 22 years of law enforcement experience. He has presented firearms and instructor development training nationwide and at multiple regional, national and international conferences. He owns Combative Firearms Training, LLC which provides firearms training and instructor development classes to law enforcement, military, private security, and armed citizens. He can be contacted at Todd@CombativeFirearms.com.



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Mike Boyle

Selecting A Light Bearing Holster

In recent years, the use of Weapon Mounted Lights (WMLs) has become prevalent in law enforcement. Ultimately, the holster you select to accommodate this accessory is just as important as the gun itself and is no place to cut corners.

Integral accessory rails on popular police service pistols were introduced in the late 1990s and this enabled the end user to affix either a weapon mounted light or a laser aiming device. While both of

these technological innovations offer tangible advantages, most departments have come to favor the weapon mounted light source.

The first WML to generate any serious interest for patrol use was the Insight Technology M3 Tactical Illuminator. Prior to the introduction of the M3, WMLs were bulky units and they were incompatible with a traditional style duty holster. Earlier lights were a semi-permanent affair and required tools to mount or remove. Batteries were arrayed in-line, much like a conventional flashlight, and, as a result, the bezel of the light projected well beyond the muzzle of the pistol.

Insight Technology solved the riddle by placing the batteries side-by-side, rather than in-line. This made the light unit considerably shorter. Unlike the first generation of pistol lights, mounting the M3 did not require the use of tools, as it merely slid into the integral rails of the pistol. Today, a number of different manufacturers use this same approach in manufacturing lights for pistols.

One obstacle to the widespread acceptance of WMLs was the lack of suitable light bearing holsters for the patrol officer. When the first WMLs hit the market, the only available holsters were the soft, woven nylon rigs often used by SWAT operators. These holsters typically lacked the multiple retention features which were in demand for patrol applications. To fill the gap, a few firms marketed a belt mounted pouch containing the tactical illuminator. In theory, the officer would draw his pistol from a standard duty holster and quickly affix the separate light. It doesn't take too much imagination to see the tactical liabilities

of such an arrangement and this idea never gained any serious traction.

Clearly, what was needed was a quality duty holster which could accommodate the service pistol with the light affixed. Progress was indeed slow, but several different models are readily available today. Not only do they boast the same retention features as a standard duty rig, but, in trained hands, they can be very fast from which to draw. Let's consider for a moment some desirable qualities of the light bearing duty holster.

Proper Fit

Not only does your chosen holster have to fit a specific brand and model of pistol, but a specific light as well. Recently, I was experimenting with a popular light bearing holster designed around a SureFire X300 Illuminator. When I swapped off the SureFire light for a smaller unit, this new combination proved to be a very loose fit with considerable fore and aft play which compromised retention qualities.

Make sure the holster you select is compatible with both the gun and the light. Sure, a brand other than specified may appear to be just a "little tight," but poor fit can slow down your draw stroke or even strip the light off the gun. On a positive note, some holsters from Gould & Goodrich and Safariland® will accommodate either the Streamlight® TLR-1® or the SureFire X300. These lights remain the hands-down favorites for patrol applications.

The new SLH Raptor from DeSantis is yet another quality design which can accommodate different lights. I tried my sample unit out with WMLs from INFORCE, Streamlight and SureFire and had no is-

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sues whatsoever. This holster will also secure the pistol without the light affixed.

Construction/Durability

Without question, system durability also comes into play. In many weapon-related areas, I'm a pretty traditional guy, but, like it or not, the days of blue steel and leather are in our rearview mirror. Synthetics stand up to the elements far better than leather and I feel that's the way to go. Modern synthetics will also hold up much better against a determined gun grab attempt. If you still fancy the look of leather, but with the hard wearing qualities of a synthetic holster, consider a holster crafted from Safariland AccuMold® Elite™. Of late, I've been working with a Gould & Goodrich X-Calibur™ X2000 light bearing holster, rendered from an injection molded synthetic. High marks were also awarded to a couple of different Safariland holsters made from their innovative SafariSeven™ material. Along those same lines, the DeSantis SLH Raptor looks like it could sustain a direct hit from a Scud missile and stay in the game. While these rigs may

lack the aesthetic appeal of leather, they will remain in service long after that cowhide rig has given up the ghost.

Optimum Balance of Speed and Retention

Weapon retention and speed into action are not necessarily mutually exclusive qualities. For the most part, the retention qualities of many popular duty holsters can typically be found in the same firm's light bearing models. Quite simply, if you are happy with the retention system of your present duty holster, looking for a light bearing version with similar qualities is a good place to start.

Ultimately, weapon retention remains a compromise. Many popular duty holsters incorporate two or more security measures to help defeat a gun grab. The prepared officer should practice to the point where the draw stroke becomes intuitive. Can you draw from your holster if you sustain an injury to your dominant hand? My agency issues the Safariland 6360 Level III holster and our quarterly range training frequently includes support hand only draw. Being fa-



Safariland®'s Quick Locking System enables the user to swap back and forth from a standard duty holster to a light bearing variant in seconds. Safariland 6360 Level III holsters are shown.

miliar with this has recently paid dividends when officers had to participate in a force-on-force exercise with marking cartridges which began with participants wearing a boxing glove on the dominant hand to simulate an injury.

Can you draw your pistol when wearing gloves? Many duty rigs which work fine with a bare hand come up short when the user is wearing gloves. I'm not talking about

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SELECTING A LIGHT BEARING HOLSTER

Continued from page 53



The SureFire MASTERFIRE® Rapid Deploy Holster can accommodate weapon mounted lights, suppressors and red dot optics.

the heavy-duty winter gloves, but those thinner models an officer may be wearing to protect the hands. When evaluating the SLH DeSantis Raptor, my draw stroke was fumble-free while wearing a pair of Hatch gloves. It pays to find out ahead of time if your holster is compatible with other gear or clothing worn while on duty.

One feature which I have come to appreciate in a duty holster is automatic locking on return. Old school holsters required one to affix one or more snaps or flip up a hood to secure the handgun. In a close

quarter's confrontation, the advantage of being able to reholster and instantly secure the pistol is another tactical plus.

Choosing a holster for a large number of officers with different physical attributes and aptitudes can be a challenge. Make a realistic assessment of how much time they will devote to become proficient with it.

Extras

Safariland has long been an industry innovator and their extensive line includes light bearing holsters for just about all popular service pistols. Best of all, these holsters are available in both high-ride and mid-ride versions which allows the user to decide what best suits their needs.

Another Safariland innovation is the Quick Locking System which enables the user to quickly remove the holster from the belt without removing a half-dozen other accessories. By affixing the receiver plate to the belt and the locking fork to the holster body, one can instantly switch from a standard duty rig to a light bearing model. As a trainer, I often have the need to

utilize different types of pistols, both with and without lights, and the Quick Locking System offers that capability.

Of late, there has been considerable interest in pistols equipped with red dot optics. An obstacle for police has been a lack of suitable duty holsters, but Safariland has solved the problem. Last year, Safariland introduced a number of duty holsters which not only accommodate a red dot optic, but an illuminator as well. Initial production was for GLOCK® pistols, with offerings for the Smith & Wesson M&P® now obtainable as well. These holsters are available with Level I, II and III retention and in a variety of finishes.

SureFire has a well-deserved repu-



Safariland® has expanded their highly regarded ALS line to include models which will accommodate a light as well as a red dot optic.

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Circle 1060 for More Information



The X-Calibur X2000 duty holster from Gould & Goodrich proved to be an excellent choice for the patrol officer.

tation for bringing quality products to the market and the new MASTERFIRE® Rapid Deploy Holster is true to the tradition. The MASTERFIRE is designed to cradle virtually any popular service sidearm with a light rail complete with a SureFire weapon light, red dot optic and even a suppressor. A unique quality of this holster is the light activation paddle switch which activates the weapon light as it is drawn from the holster. Users who prefer manual activation can cancel this feature by placing the switch to the off position. The MASTERFIRE is engineered for a fast, efficient draw and offers Level III retention qualities.

As indicated earlier, most light bearing holsters are dedicated to one or two types of tactical illuminators. The BLACKHAWK!® Epoch™ accommodates not only the SureFire X300 and Streamlight TLR-1, but the Streamlight TLR-2® with the laser aimer. I've long fancied the combination white light/laser aimer units, but, until this point in time, acceptable duty holsters have been nonexistent. The BLACKHAWK! Epoch changes all that and affords the patrol officer even greater capabilities.

My intent was not to endorse any specific brand or model as being the ultimate light bearing holster, but to outline some desirable qualities and let the end user make an educated decision. Material, model of pistol, light, level of retention, and ease of the draw all come into play. I would be naïve to think the budget doesn't weigh heavily into the equation.

I remain particularly impressed with the various Safariland duty holsters with their proprietary ALS System, both with and without the SLS rotating hood. Over the last month or so, I have been utilizing a Safariland 7390 made of SafariSeven™, a unique nylon blend which is impervious to the weather and moisture. Draw stroke is indeed very snappy, yet the holstered pistol is very secure. The ability to carry a pistol with a weapon mounted light and a red dot optic will further broaden the appeal of Safariland duty holsters.

Recently, Tactical Design Labs merged with Gould & Goodrich and their new X-Calibur X2000 light bearing holster is indeed top-shelf. This Level II holster has exceeded all of my expectations and the draw stroke is fast and clean. It, too, would be a very solid choice.

The BLACKHAWK Epoch also looks to be a winner. It appears to be a solid design – both fast and secure. The fact that it gives you the flexibility of going with the Streamlight TLR-2 gives it a leg up on the competition.



The Epoch™ from BLACKHAWK!® will accommodate a pistol with a Streamlight® TLR-1®, a Streamlight TLR-2® or a SureFire X300.

DeSantis Gunhide is best known for their innovative and fairly priced line of concealment rigs, but the SLH Raptor warrants a hard look. The fact that you can wear it as a duty rig and also configure it for plainclothes use or as a tactical holster will broaden its appeal.



The DeSantis SLH Raptor can be configured for duty or plainclothes use and can accommodate different models of weapon mounted lights.

No doubt, there are other holsters out there which might meet the criteria outlined herein, but choose carefully. Light helps us make informed decisions and having this capability instantly available on our service pistol enhances officer safety. **P&SN**

Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.

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When a gun is fired, it leaves a distinct impression on the ejected shell casing, a “fingerprint of sorts,” which is unique to that weapon.

Bill Siuru, PhD, PE

The marks found on the cartridge case, which are created by the firing pin, breech face and ejector, can be analyzed to trace the spent case back to the exact gun from which it was fired. Upon verification by a professional forensic examiner, this information can be used as evidence to help gain a conviction and solve crimes. Unfortunately, this ballistic analysis has historically been

both expensive and time-consuming. Thus, with a rise in violent crimes and homicides when guns are involved, there is often a backlog of cases to be analyzed. According to NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology), law enforcement agencies annually recover 200,000 cartridge cases found at crime scenes throughout the nation.

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Comparison of evidence casing and gallery casing

A New Response

Vigilant Solutions, suppliers of the successful PlateSearch™ license plate recognition and FaceSearch™ facial recognition technologies, recently introduced BallisticSearch™, an affordable ballistics analysis solution which utilizes the company's image analysis and technology expertise.

BallisticSearch is part of the LEARN 6.0 investigative platform which includes PlateSearch and FaceSearch. Like the latter two investigative tools, BallisticSearch is cloud-based, allowing the results of a BallisticSearch analysis to be added to a database which can be shared with other agencies throughout the nation, provided they have the necessary means and software. Vigilant Solutions states that its simple, opt-in data sharing between agencies is much like sharing friends' posts on Facebook.

BallisticSearch can accurately compare cartridge cases in minutes – less than ten seconds per cartridge case – compared to other systems which can take hours to process the same evidence. This can eliminate comparison backlogs, correlate and connect more cases, and identify increased numbers of suspects.

Components

The BallisticSearch system includes portable image capture hardware, cartridge case capture software and ballistics comparison technology. The portable capture device was designed to be small and lightweight for use in the field and, in some instances, right at the crime scene or in the forensic laboratory at a department's headquarters. The capture software allows law enforcement agencies of all sizes to carefully identify and compare cartridge cases to others or to cartridge case samples from firearms seized as evidence and test-fired.

The system also allows law enforcement personnel to run an on-site crime scene analysis report which may provide the number of handguns used during a crime. This information is extremely valuable during the crucial period following the crime when investigators need every possible investigative lead. The resulting images from BallisticSearch are leads, however, not evidence. Only after a Forensic Firearm and Tool Mark Examiner (FFTME) examines this physical evidence under a microscope will matched ballistic evidence be admissible in a court of law.

The BallisticSearch Image Capture Station is a USB powered, compact and easy to use scanning device. It can be

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**BallisticSearch™ Image Capture Station**

used indoors or outdoors and is conveyed in a durable storage carrying case. BallisticSearch includes a full suite of adjustment and enhancement tools to assist in comparing probe images against the BallisticSearch nationwide image

database. Filters allow BallisticSearch users to adjust the colors of the probe and gallery images to enhance the clarity of the various marks found on the spent cartridge case.

BallisticSearch is designed to be the most efficient system available for quickly analyzing ballistic evidence in both 2-D and 3-D formats and provides the ability to share data across jurisdictions. BallisticSearch is currently designed for use with a PC running on the Windows® operating system. A mobile app is currently not available at this time; however, technology is now progressing faster than ever!

P&SN

For more information, contact:

Vigilant Solutions

1152 Stealth Street

Livermore, CA 94551

Phone: (925)398-2079

Web site: www.VigilantSolutions.com

Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a PhD in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. He has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects for many years.



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NEW TECHNOLOGY



New In-Car Video System

The **FOCUS H1** in-car video system, from COBAN Technologies, Inc., uses Artificial Intelligence-based applications for video analytics processed real-time inside the police car, assisting officers while they perform their policing duties. **FOCUS H1** integrates with a variety of third-party software applications to identify objects, such as vehicle make and model, facial features, weapons, dangerous movements, or certain behaviors. **FOCUS H1** also fully integrates with the FOCUS X1 body camera.

Circle 1066 for More Information



New Pistol

Sturm, Ruger & Company has just introduced the new **Security-9®** pistol, an affordable, rugged, mid-sized centerfire pistol. Chambered in 9mm Luger and utilizing a 15 round, double stack magazine, the **Security-9** strikes the perfect balance between a compact and full-size pistol. It is small and light enough to be easily concealed and comfortably carried, yet it has twice the capacity of slimmer 9mm Luger pistols.

Features include an easy to rack slide; a short, crisp trigger pull; eye-catching sights; and an ergonomic, textured grip frame. The American-made **Security-9** is constructed around a rigid, one-piece, precision machined, aluminum chassis with full-length guide rails; a blued, through-hardened alloy steel slide and barrel; and a high performance, glass-filled nylon grip frame with an integral accessory rail.

The new **Security-9** features a four inch barrel and weighs just 23.7 ounces with an empty magazine.

Circle 1067 for More Information



New Handheld Laser Device

American Traffic Solutions has partnered with Laser Technology Inc. to launch **ATS StreetSafe™**, a handheld laser device designed to provide police with yet another tool to help save lives and protect the communities they serve from the dangers of excessive speeding. It wirelessly uploads speed events through a secure connection to ATS' proven Axis™ Violation Processing System which automatically extracts the plate number, populates owner registration data and sends the speed event back to the officer for review. Once reviewed and accepted by the officer, **ATS StreetSafe** generates a comprehensive evidence package which includes high-resolution photos, high-definition video and pertinent violation data; a citation is then mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Circle 1068 for More Information

New Mobile Surveillance Tower

FLIR Systems has recently announced the availability of their second generation **FLIR SkyWatch™** mobile surveillance tower. The two-story tall, standalone tower delivers several new engineering design features to enhance stability while providing law enforcement an aerial advantage for officers to see more, respond to incidents faster, and act as a symbolic deterrent in high vehicle or people traffic areas.

The second generation **SkyWatch** features re-engineered lifting arms, improved horizontal bracing and new outrigger stabilizers to withstand winds up to 60 miles per hour. With the ability to tow the **SkyWatch** behind a vehicle, one officer can deploy the tower in 90 seconds, reducing personnel requirements. Deployable on either flat or rough terrain, it provides officers a climate-controlled, 25 foot tall, 360 degree visibility vantage point for any mission.



Circle 1069 for More Information

New Liberator Tactical Communication Headsets

Safariland® has introduced the **Liberator IV™** and **Liberator V™** advanced single and dual communications headsets. Both headsets have several industry first features and provide law enforcement operators the ability to easily customize their audio profiles for secure single or dual communication situations.

The **Liberator** series allows users to modify their audio profile with simple keystrokes on the headset and incorporates ANR advanced sound localization for maximum situational awareness and threat detection. Compatible with more than 250 different tactical communication sources, the **Liberator IV** and **V** headsets are the first of its kind with electronic noise compression and active noise cancellation.

Both headsets feature a universal, modular suspension to easily adjust without tools for over the head, behind the head, or helmet mounting.

Circle 1070 for More Information



New USB Rechargeable Flashlight



Streamlight® has recently introduced the **MicroStream® USB**, a USB rechargeable version of its popular MicroStream® flashlight. This new compact light delivers up to 250 lumens and 3.5 hours of runtime, while also offering the benefits of rechargeability. It measures only 3.87 inches long and weighs only 1.20 ounces.

Using power LED technology, the new light features two lighting modes, high and low. On high, it provides 250 lumens, 1,150 candela, a 68 meter beam distance, and a runtime of 1.5 hours. On low, it offers a runtime of 3.5 hours, 50 lumens, 250 candela, and a beam distance of 31 meters.

The **MicroStream USB** includes a convenient push-button tail cap switch which provides easy, one-handed operation of the light's momentary or constant on operation and lighting modes.

Circle 1071 for More Information

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BUSTED!

James L. McClinton, Ph.D

"Wait! What? You want me to take what kind of exam to see if I qualify?"...

A Pennsylvania gynecologist is baffled by the fact that she has been inundated with calls from men trying to set up appointments after hearing she was permitted to prescribe medical marijuana. The doctor was mentioned in the media as being eligible to certify medical marijuana users and then her office phone started ringing off the hook. It was primarily men on the line. This is odd since she's an OB-GYN who treats women exclusively. (*Sorry, guys, I'm afraid your claims of "postpartum depression" will not qualify you for medical marijuana.*)

So, how long will they be in prison? Don't worry, "just a little" while!...

In Mesa County, Colorado, a sheriff's deputy was on patrol when he smelled the odor of fresh marijuana coming from a rental truck. Since the truck was speeding, he pulled it over and asked the 53-year-old driver if he had any marijuana. "Just a little," the driver said. He then agreed to show the deputy what he meant by a "little." He pulled up the rolling door, pulled out a trash bag, poked a finger through the plastic, and pulled out some weed. "It's just a little bit," he told the deputy. "I can throw it out." But, the deputy could see other trash bags: In all, there were 87 bags holding 3,100 pounds of marijuana. The man and his 49-year-old passenger were arrested. (*"It's just a little bit" = "I only had one beer."*)

They're the same ones who feel "SLOW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING" signs discriminate against fast pedestrians...

The Iowa Department Of Transportation (IDOT) reports it actually gets this question on a pretty regular basis, "Why don't they put 'Deer Crossing' signs in better places so deer know where to cross highways safely?" Apparently tired of the question, the IDOT posted the answer on their Facebook page, "Deer can't read signs. Drivers can. This sign isn't intended to tell deer where to cross; it's for drivers to be alert that deer have been in this area in the past." The IDOT notes that, in the first ten months of this year, there have been at least 3,344 car/animal crashes. (*Deer are always crossing in the wrong places. They should be ticketed!*)

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



Now, there's a harebrained idea that never really caught on!...

When asked at a town meeting what his plans were for drug enforcement, a candidate for mayor of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania (population under 17,000), replied he would have the police department deploy drug sniffing bunnies. Yes, really, rabbits – they're much cheaper to maintain than trained dogs. "I was dead serious," he said later. "I would not make a joke about a rabbit if I did not believe it to be true." He had seen a photo of a cop with a "police rabbit" on a leash – on the Internet, of course – and thought the Photoshopped image was real. The photo had been previously posted by the Amherst, NY, Police Department as an April Fools' joke. (*Too bad he didn't hop onto the Internet to check that story out first...*)

What do you expect from a guy who loves to pin "Kick Me" signs on himself?...

"How long is it gonna take yall dumb ass's [sic] to find me?" a daring young man posted on the sheriff's office's Facebook page in Vernon Parish, Louisiana. He gave the agency a one star rating – and posted an image with an arrow indicating where he lived, along with the address of his "trailer" [sic]. He was easily arrested on his outstanding warrant. The sheriff's office even posted about it, thanking the man for "reminding" them of his arrest warrant. (*I wonder if he's going to upgrade the sheriff's office to five stars?*)

Remember when the Hells Angels used to be really tough?...

Tennessee police say a Knoxville man was arrested for burglary while dressed as a pirate. The Dunlap Police Department says the accused was arrested over the weekend on charges of burglary and resisting arrest. The man also goes by the name of "Captain Jack Sparrow" and is a mem-

ber of the Hells Angels motorcycle club. When he was taken into custody, police said he was wearing a black pirate hat, a black vest, a brown jacket, and red gloves. (*"Arghhh, can somebody help me? I can't seem to find the ocean here in Knoxville."*)

It's a good thing they got him before he caused "Panda monium"...

Police in Minnesota said they ticketed a man in a panda suit on a motorcycle who was wearing an oversized animal head instead of a helmet. The state police said a driver called 911 to report someone in a panda suit riding a motorcycle on Highway 101. The caller said the biker's vision appeared to be obstructed and the person was riding with no hands and weaving through traffic. Troopers caught up to the rider who said the suit was intended to help his motorcycle videos "go viral." He was cited for reckless driving. (*It sounds like he was pandering to an online audience – thankfully, he didn't get fur.*) **P&SN**

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TRAIL

SKU	PL76513	PL76501	PL76503	PL76507	PL76509
Model	XQ30	XQ38	XQ50	XP38	XP50
Objective lens	F30 / 1.6	F38 / 1.2	F50 / 1.2	F38 / 1.2	F30 / 1.2
Sensor, resolution	384 x 288	384 x 288	384 x 288	640 x 480	640 x 480
Pixel pitch, µm	17	17	17	17	17
Frame rate, Hz	50	50	50	50	50
Magnification	1.6 ... 6.4	2.1 ... 8.4	2.7 ... 10.8	1.2 ... 9.6	1.6 ... 12.8
Field of view, deg	12.4	9.8	2.7	16.3	12.4
Range of detection, yd	985	1475	2000	1475	2000
Dimensions, in	11.3 x 2.8 x 2.6	11.2 x 2.8 x 2.6	11.5 x 2.8 x 2.6	11.2 x 2.8 x 2.6	11.5 x 2.8 x 2.6
Weight, oz	16.9	18.3	19.7	21.1	21.8

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